

National and State Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria				
Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	National Quality Criteria	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation
<b>AIR</b>				
<b>Air Quality - Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM 10)</b>	Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter are suspended in the air causing potential health hazards to humans and animals.	Land use and management operations comply with PM 10 requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific guidelines contained in State or Federal Implementation Plan; or other approved NRCS tool.</li> <li>Air quality analysis</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM 2.5)</b>	Particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter are suspended in the air causing potential health hazards to humans and animals.	Land use and management operations comply with PM 2.5 requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific guidelines contained in State or Federal Implementation Plan; or other approved NRCS tools</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Excessive Ozone</b>	High concentrations of ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) are adversely affecting human health, reducing plant yields, and leading to the creation of smog.	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific guidelines contained in State or Federal Implementation Plan; or other approved NRCS tools</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Excessive Greenhouse Gas – CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide)</b>	Increased CO <sub>2</sub> concentrations are adversely affecting ecosystem processes.	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model simulations (Century, EPIC, CQUESTER); sampling for soil carbon or International Panel on Climate Change methodology; or other NRCS approved tools</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Excessive Greenhouse Gas – N<sub>2</sub>O (nitrous oxide)</b>	Increased N <sub>2</sub> O concentrations are adversely affecting ecosystem processes.	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model simulations (NLEAP or DayCENT), or IPCC methodology; or other NRCS approved tools</li> </ul>

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<b>Air Quality - Excessive Greenhouse Gas – CH<sub>4</sub> (methane)</b>	Increased CH <sub>4</sub> concentrations are adversely affecting ecosystem processes. .	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of the State or Federal Implementation Plan and all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPCC methodology; or other NRCS approved tools</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)</b>	Animal waste and inorganic commercial fertilizers emit ammonia that contributes to odor, is a PM <sub>2.5</sub> precursor, and contributes to acid rain.	Land use and management operations comply with requirements of all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved NRCS technical guidance and tools</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Chemical Drift</b>	Materials applied for pest control drift downwind and contaminate/injure non-targeted fields, crops, soils, water, animals and humans.	Land use and management operations comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations, and applicable label directions.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved NRCS technical guidance and tools</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Objectionable Odors</b>	Land use and management operations produce offensive smells.	Odor-producing facilities and activities are planned and sited to mitigate potential nuisance impacts and meets all applicable Tribal, State, and Local regulations.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olfactory assessment</li> <li>• Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH)</li> <li>• NRCS approved tools</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Reduced Visibility</b>	Sight distance is impaired due to airborne particles causing unsafe conditions and impeded viewing of natural vistas especially in Class I viewing areas (primarily national parks and monuments).	Land use and management operations comply with all applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and Local regulations including state and local smoke and/or burn management plans.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual assessment</li> <li>• Regional air partnership recommendations and/or state guidance for smoke management</li> </ul>

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<b>Air Quality - Undesirable Air Movement</b>	Wind velocities (too little or too much) reduce animal or plant productivity, impact human comfort and increase energy consumption.	Devices and practices are sited and planned to mitigate excess or deficient air movement.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual assessment</li> <li>• Anemometers</li> <li>• Approved NRCS technical guidance and tools</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality - Adverse Air Temperature</b>	Air temperatures (too cold or too hot) reduce animal or plant productivity, impact human comfort and increase energy consumption.	Devices and practices are planned and sited to mitigate temperature extremes.	SAME NATIONAL AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chill factor indices; heat indices</li> <li>• Air temperature assessment</li> </ul>